

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W  
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R 040915Z OCT 73  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7165  
INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

S E C R E T BANGKOK 15551

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, BM, TH  
SUBJ: GUB-LAHU SITUATION

REF: BANGKOK 14199

SUMMARY: THE FOLLOWING, EXCEPT FOR THE COMMENT, IS A REPEAT OF CHIANG MAI 343. A CONSULATE CHIANG MAI SENIOR LOCAL MET WITH NAI ANUNG SEPTEMBER 26 DURING A VISIT TO FANG. AUNG, A SHAN-LAHU WHO CLAIMS TO WORK FOR LT. COL. CHAMNONG RODCHAROEN (REFTEL), HAD JUST RETURNED FROM ACROSS THE BORDER AND GAVE THE FOLLOWOWING RUNDOWN ON THE CURRENT GUB-LAHU SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

1. AUNG'S MEN SAY THAT GUB FORCES HAVE PULLED OUT OF DOI LANG (NC 1064) AND MOVED THEIR EQUIPMENT NORTH, TELLING THE VILLAGERS THAT THEY WERE CALLED BACK TO DRIVE THE CHINESE COMMUNISTES OUT OF THE SHAN AREAS AROUND KENG TUNG. THE BURMESE TROOPS ARE SAID TO BE SHORT OF FOOD AND SUPPLIES, AND THE LAHU FORESEE NO MAJOR CLASHES IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AIR RAIDS ARE A POSSIBLITY, BUT THE LAHU ARE NOW MIXED IN WITH THE VILLAGERS AND FEEL IN A STRONG POSITION IN THEIR AREA.

2. THE SEPTEMBER 1-2 FORCE ATTACKING THE GUB OUTPOST OF DOI LANG CONSISTED OF 150 LAHU AND 11 BURMESE PARLIAMENTARY  
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DEMOCRACY PARTY (PDP) "SPECIAL FORCES" LED BY A BURMESE CAPTAIN MYINT THU. THE GUB SUFFERED TWO KILLED AND SEVEN WOUNDED, INCLUDING THE COMMANDING LIEUTENANT. THE LAHU HAD TWO KIA, BUT NOT THE SON-IN-LAW OF PU KYAW

(MAN-GOD) AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS.

3. AUNG SAID THAT SHAN CAPTAIN SAI KAO AND EIGHTY SHAN HAVE MOVED UP NEAR MONG HSAT ON SABOTAGE MISSIONS. SAO KAO IS STILL WITH THE PDP, AND HIS MEN, NOT THE KAREN AS THE PRESS HAD REPORTED, ARE HELPING THE LAHU.

4. THE LAHU NOW HAVE TWO COMMANDS: ONE UNDER JA LOR WITH PDP ADVISORS IN THE AREA NORTH OF MONG TUM (NC 5163) TO MONG HSAT-KENGTUNG (NC 2769); AND THE OTHER GROUP WITH NO PDP UNDER JA ER, THE SON OF MAN-GOD, IN THE AREA WEST OF MONG HSAT-MONG, GAEN-MONG PAN (LT 1460).

5. AUNG SAYS THAT THE KMT HAVE ATTEMPTED TO LURE JA ER TO THEIR SIDE IN EXCHANGE FOR KMT ARMS, BUT PU KYAW LUANG WAS ONCE A KKY LEADER WHO WORKED AGAINST THE KMT AND IS NOW RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT KMT HELP.

6. AUNG SAID THAT THE LAHU HAD RECEIVED WEAPONS FROM THAILAND. SOME OF THE WEAPONS THE LAHU USED WERE INVOLVED IN THE CHIANG SAEN SEIZURE. HE SAID THE LAHU ARE ALSO BUYING SOME WEAPONS ON THEIR OWN.

7. EMBASSY BANGKOK COMMENT: LT. COL. CHAMONG RODCHAROEN DOES NOT WORK FOR THE ARMED FORCES INTELLIGENCE OPERATION CENTER (AFIOC) AS REPORTED IN REFTEL. LATER INFORMATION INDICATES THAT HE IS A ROYAL THAI ARMY (RTA) OFFICER ASSIGNED TO THE RTA SPECIAL OPERATIONS CENTER, UNDER THE RTA CHIEF OF STAFF, AS A SPECIAL LIAISON OFFICER WITH VARIOUS BURMESE DISSIDENT GROUPS. THE CONFUSION APPARENTLY RESULTED FROM A SIMILARITY IN THE THAI NAMES OF THE TWO UNITS. CHAMNONG, INCIDENTALLY, WAS INDICATED SEPTEMBER 21 IN CONNECTION WITH THE THUNG YAI HUNTING SCANDAL (BANGKOK 15888).

8. LT. GEN. KRIANGSAK CHOMANAN, SUPREMENT COMMAND CHIEF OF STAFF, DISCUSSED THE LAHU ATTACK WITH EMBASSY OF-  
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FICERS OCTOBER 2. WE SAID THAT IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE BURMESE ARMY COULD NOT FIGHT KCS PRINCIPAL ENEMY -- THE BURMESE COMMUNIST PARTY/WHITE FLAG -- BECAUSE IT HAD TO DISSIPATE ITS LIMITED MILITARY STRENGTH AGAINST THE DISSIDENTS. KRIANGSAK'S PRINCIPAL CONTACT MAN WITH BURMESE DISSIDENT GROUPS, COL. TUANGTHONG SUVANADAT, CONTENTED THAT, ON THE CONTRARY, THE GUB PREFERENCE FOR FIGHTING RATHER THAN NEGOTIATING WITH THE DISSIDENTS WOULD EVENTUALLY DRIVE THEM INTO AN ALLIANCE WITH THE WHITE FLAG. HE IMPLIED THAT THE BURMESE PREFERRED TO FIGHT THE SOFTER TARGET. WE WILL CONTINUE OUR NIBBLING APPROACHES TO THE RTG ON THE PROBLEM OF THE SUPPORT THAT SOME RTG ELEMENTS GIVE TO BURMESE DISSIDENTS. MASTERS

SECRET

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